



2021 PLATFORM

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Invest in the Success of Florida's Students

The pandemic has caused an upheaval of the traditional delivery of education to our students and created enormous challenges for students, families, and staff. Last spring, school districts across the state stepped up to transition overnight to closed campuses and remote learning models. Again, in August, districts transitioned to provide innovative learning options to ensure instructional continuity to all Florida students.

- Provide school districts with maximum flexibility and additional flexible operating funds to ensure Florida's students are on the road to academic recovery and in light of the education interruptions and budget challenges caused by COVID-19.
- Increased funding is needed to ensure school districts can address personalized needs of all students to provide a high-quality education, transition back to traditional learning models, and to expand offerings to best serve students and families.

Invest in Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

Students and staff are unable to reach full potential without safe, secure, and healthy learning environments. The pandemic has added to the challenges of keeping campuses safe and healthy.

- Provide local flexibility to districts and needed school safety resources to enable districts to hire at least one law enforcement officer, school safety officer, and/or guardian at each school who will assist in training and implementing safe schools initiatives.
- Provide increased funding for addressing the shortage of mental health staff and services and increased need for access due to COVID-19.

Pause Negative Consequences of the Accountability System due to COVID-19

FSBA supports utilizing Florida's Statewide Assessment Program to measure student performance and provide diagnostic information to teachers and parents. However, the pandemic has impacted students, classrooms, and communities across the state in unequal and unprecedented ways and any repercussions associated with the accountability system this year will similarly be applied in unequal and unprecedented ways.

- Provide safe harbor to students, teachers, schools, and districts by pausing negative consequences of the accountability system prompted by statewide assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Revise the Required Local Effort to Reflect Local Property Values

Update the calculation for the Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate to capture the increases in residential and commercial property values, revenue gained from new construction, and the change of value in real estate caused by the sale of property.

The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.